## GUN AGAINST ARMOR.

Details of the Remarkable Tests Made at Annapolis.

EFFECTS OF THE FIRING.

The English Plates Shattered While the French Plate is Hardly Affected-How the Gun Was Fired-Scenes on the Proving Ground.

amount of well-founded boasting over her old-time rival and enemy, England. This is the result of the tests of stool armor plates at the naval proving gound opposite the Naval Academy at Annapo-lis Thursday, considered the most successful of the kind that has ever taken place. French plates were hit with steel shells made in France ofter a French process, fired from an American gun, and the effect astounded even the most sanguine of the spectators, while on the other hand the only other plate at the butts, representing the best steel, the best talent and the greatest enterprise of Britain, was cracked, broken and finally perforated thus demonstrating the vast superiority of the steel pre-sented by the descendants of Johnnie Crapaud.

UNDER THE EYES OF THE WORLD. The entire navy, all of the steel manufacturers of the country and half of all the others in the world have been discussing this test for weeks past and it is regarded as the most remarkable event that has ever taken place in the history of ordnance. In the first place it was fully public, among the spectators be-ing not only representatives of the main steel interests of the world, but also newspaper men prepared to send the slightest details of the experiments to the entire reading public of ali civilizations. In this a precedent was established, for on all similar occasions in Europethere have never been any others in this country -the greatest seclusion was maintained and the results of the tests were made public only when they were sufficiently favorable to please the authorities in charge, and then always prepared without any unpleasant incidents narrated. Photographs have been taken in numbers of the meat investigate tests of armor but bers of the most important tests of armor, but few have found their way into the journals. WITH A CAMEBA.

Thursday a reporter of THE STAR armed with a Kodak and a Genie-doubly loaded to catch the sun napping-was enabled to photograph everything of interest about the entire proceeding, including the plates as they ap-peared on the conclusion of the final round, and the accompanying matter is a truthful ac-count of the noise that was made and the effects that were produced.

HOW THE COMPETITION CAME ABOUT. Some months ago it was decided by the Sec-

retary of the Navy to test the value of a certain armor-piercing projectile known as the Holtger shell, manufactured in France, and for that purpose he entered into a contract with the firm of Schnelder & Co., whose works are located at Le Creusot, France, to furnish him with two of their best steel ship's armor plates, to be used in testing the projectiles. These were furnished, one made of solid steel, with no alloy, containing about % of 1 per cent of carbon, and the other of a composition of 35 per cent steel and 5 per cent of nickel, known as nickel steel. Each cost about \$3,750. Preparations were being made at the proving ground for the tests, which were ordered for a certain date. when the representatives in this country of Mesers. Cammell & Co. of Sheffield, England, petitioned that the test be made a competition between their plates and those of the Creusot arm, in order to determine the superiority. that paid for the French steel, and finally their tion was accepted. The competition was declared open to all manufacturers, but no others entered, the American steel makers auouncing that they were not yet ready. PREPARING FOR THE TESTS.

For two months past work has been going on at the gun foundry in this city and at the Annapolis proving ground in preparation for the tests, and it was only a week or so ago that Lieut, Commander Dayton, who is in charge of the proving ground, announced that all was ready. A board had long before been apready. A board had long before been appointed by the Secretary to witness the tests and to make a report upon them, as follows:

Rear Admiral L. A. Kimberly, Capt. E. O.

Matthews, Commander W. R. Bridgman, Lieut.
Commander W. Maynard, Lieuts, J. F. Meigs,
C. A. Stone, W. H. Southerland and F. F.

Fletcher and K. Miles, and Ensigns
P. R. Alger, A. A. Ackerman and R. B. Dashiell. After a vague warning to the invited guests, in which no mention was made of an exact date. so that there should not be a general clamor for tickets or a large crowd demanding admission to the grounds, the private tip was passed Tuesday, and cards were given to a number of officers of both the army and the navy, several prominent steel makers and a selected corps of newspaper men, representing THE STAR, the press associations and some of the leading metropolitan journals making a

PERFECT CONDITIONS.

The conditions were perfect for a most satisfactory test all day long, and the arrangements were made with so great care that the wonderful record was achieved of firing inside of four and a half bours twelve shots with tremendous velocities at an extraordinarily short range, in the presence of 200 persons, without the least semblance of a hitch or an accident, and for this credit is due and should be given to Commodore Folger, the chief of the bureau of ordnance of the navy, who personally superintended the preliminary details and lent the magical effect of his energetic presence to the themselves. It may be remarked, in sasts themselves. It may be remarked, in caseing, that on the other side of the ocean it regarded as an excellent record in conductsimilar tests if two shots can be fired in one day, whereas there was ample time Thurs-day for eight more shots had there been need hus making ten times as much progress as our Inglish. French, German and other European

GATHERING ON THE GROUNDS

of the spectators went to Annapolis Wednesday night, including Secretary Tracy and Commodore Folger, while a large number of others left the city Thursday morning and reached the proving ground with little if any time to spare. It has become a proverb that public events never occur on time, and the vitaceses of such incidents have grown accusmed to making a certain marginal allowance for delays, but it is a fact that surprised many these on the grounds that the first and, which was scheduled to be fired at hi e'clock promptly, made its enormous noise at precisely one minute past that hour, thus proving the exception to the rule. It was while the schoes of this shot were dying away over the Maryland hills that THE Bras reporter stepped from the asthmatic steam launch that had carried the trio that ecented the Washington pencil pushers the Severn river to the proving ground and when he reached the scene of the experi-ments, a few minutes later, he found the board miy engaged in examining the effects of the

plates were arranged side by side in reat of a large mound of earth, set against a solid wooden backing made of three thickpeaces of 12-inch oak beams and braced in the most scientific manner. Each plate was held in position by two upright pieces of iron bolted to the framework. The gun, a triumph of the lathe, was a six-inch bore, a trifle longer than usual, and capable of sending a 100-pound shot at an initial velocity of 2,075 feet a second

by means of a charge of 45 pounds of powder. The increased length was for the purpose of insuring the high velocity. The gun was made for this test at the Washington foundry. It stood in a temporary structure built of oaken planks, roofed with tron plates, and protected in front by innumerable bags of sand and a system of stakes. The muzzle was thirty feet from the center of each target, the plates being set on a curved. with fron plates, and protected in front by innumerable bags of sand and a system of stakes.

The muzzle was thirty feet from the center of
each target, the plates being set on a curved
line, so as to present each a perpendicular face
ha the center line of the gun's are.

wrapped in a newspaper and tied around with
string at intervals. This was the charge, 45
pounds of brown powder wrapped in a cloth
case, which was cautiously inserted into the
breech and poked down until it encountered
the shot, and the gun was loaded. Before it

The Cammell plate received its coup-de-grace



READY TO BE FIRED. The piece was regularly mounted on a pneusatis carriage, with the proper circles bolted

to the floor. Just behind it was the circle on human perception. The shots were fired at and into the earth. The Englishmen smiled which an eight-inch gan has since been the plates in this order: to the floor. Just behind it was the circle on which an eight-inch gun has since been mounted. This will be fired Monday at the center of each plate—possibly excepting the English production, which is badly broken up—in order to complete the tests. The process of taking the six-inch gun from its shed and replacing it with the larger piece was a huge task and required two days for its completion. The eight-inch rifle lay on its truck a couple of hundred feet from the firing butts, ready to be wheeled up into place.



THE BUTTS. The butts were made at the Washington navy yard and were the objects of considerable favor- far

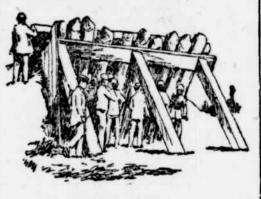
able, though closely critical, attention throughout the tests. It was the universal opinion that no better firing butts have ever been set before a gun. The oak of the backing frames was three feet in thickness.

The plates were identified by inscriptions

steneiled upon the wood backing above the metal, and were arranged thus: The all-steel Creusot plate was on the left of the gun, the Cammell compound plate on the right and the Creusot nickel plate in the middle The first shot was fired at the all-steel Creusot, the second at the Cammell and the third at the nickel, this order being steadily maintained throughout the test.

BEGULATIONS FOR SPECTATORS. The following order was posted in several places around the firing butt, a copy being in the possession of the coxswain of each of the half dozen steam launches in use during the day: "A musket will be fired before each shot, and all spectators are cautioned to take shelter and remain under cover sufficiently long to allow all fragments to drop. The space roped in in front of the targets is reserved in order that the board may have an opportunity for ex-amination and discussion after each shot, and to give the photographer a clear space for views. In order to avoid delays, guests are requested to remain outside the ropes until the firing is completed for the day." Another cantioned the spectators that those

who remained out of cover during the firing were in danger within 300 yards. Earth-cov ered butts were scattered at various places in the rear of the gun, and there was a general scramble for these whenever the musket shot was heard.



A PRIVATE BOX. The board had a private box about 75 yards away, into which they huddled like sardines The danger lay in the fragments of steel that flew through the air with terrific velocities immediately after each shot, torn from the plate or broken from the shell.

WHAT PLYING FRAGMENTS DID. Some queer antics were cut by these odd missiles during the day. Dozens of them flew clear over the sheds and trees that stand at least 200 yards from the gun into the waters of the creek, making a splash like that produced by a volley of musketry. One chunk of metal as large as a man's fist whizzed through the top of the roof of the main shed and then cut off a good-sized limb of a tree. Acorns fell from at 1:23, and penetrated about sixteen inches the oaks as if a tornado were passing through into the nickel plate. A good many fragments soon discovered several unique but cool ways of carrying them. As many of these fragments as could be found were collected by the board after each shot and placed in a box for further examination to discover, if possible, the nature of the steel and the effects of the tremendous

FIRING THE GUY.

The gun was handled, aimed and fired by Ensign Dashiell, who pulled the lanyard from behind a small but stoutly protected shelter about a rod from the plates. At times he was severely bombarded. When all was ready and everybody had found hiding places a hand-kerchief waved from the board's cave gave the signal, and then, after one last look around to see that all was well, the plucky offi-cer set his teeth together and gave cer set his teeth together and gave the firing line a smart pull. There was a bang greater than the slamming of 10,000 doors, concussion as if half of the air had punche the other half back seven feet, then a series of echoes, growing fainter and fainter, accentuated by the rat-a-tat-tat of the fragments of steel as they cut the twigs and struck the ground or the water. The shock, owing to the closeness of the gun to the plate, was enor-mous, and the smoke, confined to such a narrow space, was some moments in flowing off to

As soon as all of the fragments had come to rest and everything was safe again the musket, which was held in a vise near the firing butt. was fired, and the people began to swarm in from the west, each eager to see the effect of the shot. At first the shots were fired at intervals of half an hour, but as the test progressed and the board became more accusomed to its duties this time was shortened, until the period elapsing between numbers eleven and twelve was but fifteen minutes.

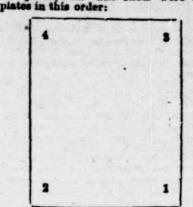
after each shot. First, the general effect of each shot was noted. Then the hole made in the armor was measured and the surface of the plate, which was in each instance badly discolored and soiled from the powder residue from the gun and the sand splashed up from the

ground, was cleaned off.

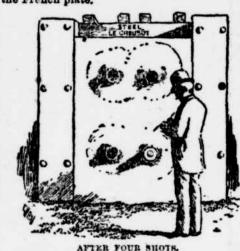
This exposed the metal and showed the cracks, if any existed. Officers mounted upon the framework of the backing and examined the bolts to see if any had started, so as to detect the strains. A mirror held at an angle threw the sunlight into the hole in the plate, showing the nature of the wound, and then showing the nature of the wound, and then careful measurements were taken of all the phenomena, the size and shape of the "burr" or rough edge of metal forced outward by the shot from the face of the plate, the dimensions and direction of cracks, the exact depth of the projectile and the extent of the peculiar discoloration of the steel around the place hit, caused by the interpa heat engondered by the caused by the intense heat engendered by the

impact.
These and many other smaller details were attended to as quickly as care would permit, and then—the gun having in the meantime been reaimed—the word was given to with-draw, but not before the official photographers had had several shots at the damaged plate.

The loading of the gun was accomplished in a few minutes. The projectile was first slic into the breech and shoved home. A negro workman then tenderly lifted from the floor a long copper cylinder, from which he drew a bundle that looked like a few old clothes



The first shot was fired at 11:01 and penetrated the Creusot all-steel plate one-third of its length-the projectile is 17 inches long and the plate 10½ inches thick—remaining fast in the target, with little or no alteration visible. The plate was burred up somewhat and convexed a trifle, but not cracked. This showed good steel and the experts looked interested. The representatives of the English firm—Mr. Bispham of the firm of W. H. Wallace & Co., New York, and Mr. Harry Hodges of Sheffield, England—said that it was "very clevah," intimating that something still more "clevah" was to follow. The second shot, fired at 11:30, penetrated the Cammell plate 28 inches—that is, the point was that far from the face. Two bolts in the backing were started, several large fragments were broken from the plate and there were some decided cracks found. The faces of the Englishmen grew long, and they polished their eyeglasses to see if they were not deceived. But it was all too apparent, even to the unini-But it was all too apparent, even to the uninitiated layman, that the first shot had developed a certain amount of superiority on the part of the French plate.



The third shot was fired at 12:02 at the nickel steel plate and produced a startling effect. The shot was broken, one-half of it remaining in the plate and the other half being thrown entire back to the firing butt. It was evident that there was either an immense strength on the part of the plate or an accidental weakness in the shell. The next round would probably demonstrate the facts. The Englishmen began to explain, but not with much force as yet. ANOTHER OF THE SAME KIND.

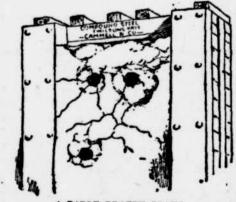
It was 12:30 when the lanyard was pulled for the fourth time, and when the spectators reached the butts again a cry of wonder went up on all sides. The shot had struck the plate squarely, and, after penetrating almost through the steel, had been then thrown bedily back to a distance of thirty feet, where it was found quite hot. It was apparently uninjured and might be used again for all the layman knew. A careful measurement showed that the blow had shortened it 11-100 of an inch, and that it was not "set up," that is, bulged or fattened in the least, so that it could. with very little treatment, and a new copper collar, be put into the gun and fired again. The point of the shell was highly polished by the impact. Neither of the French plates had so far developed any cracks, except at the immediate edge of the burr, and the amazement ran high.

ANOTHER WHACK AT THE ENGLISH PLATE The defeat of the English steel compound was made very manifest at the fifth shot, which was fired at 12:47 and which penetrated so that the base of the projectile was fifteen inches from the face of the plate. This carried the point thirty-two luches from the outer edge of the target or within fourteen and a half inches of complete penetration, the entire buit being forty-six and a half inches. The former cracks were developed in a high degree and the entire lower section of the plate was visibly weakened, while the bolts of the backing were strained again. Shot number six started on its brief journey

the grove, and twigs fell in quantities. The flew through the air, but these, it was found, fragments were very hot for some time after their descent and the finders of these plate was uncracked. Two bolts were started in the backing and one in the side fron was started a triffe. THEY CONCLUDED TO GO ON.

This was as much firing as the board had intended to do with the six-inch gun, as it was rather expected to do sufficient damage with the smaller piece to let the eight-inch gun give the final stroke with one shot. But the French plates were showing marvelous tenacity and strength, and the experts concluded after a brief consultation with the Secretary and Commodore Folger to go ahead with two more shots in each plate.

ANOTHER AT THE CREUSOT PLATE. Accordingly number seven was fixed at 1:43 against the all-steel Crousot. Again the projectile was thrown back entire, going through the sand bags piled in front of the guns, and landing on the floor of the gun shed. It was shortened about 15-100 of an inch and set up 1-100. The point of the shot had just perforated the steel. The English people had by this time given out the impression that their plate was the worst produced from the Shef-field works in ten years, but a steel man, who had spent considerable time at Sheffield, declared afterward that in his opinion the present plate was the best that the Cammell firm had ever made.



A BADLY BROKEN PLATE. The eighth shot hit the Cammell plate at 2:11 and played havor with the compound. The projectile went entirely through the metal and lodged in the wood, throwing out a shower of fragments that flew to the extreme limits of the firing field. The Secretary and Commo-dore Folger were hiding behind a triangular bomb-proof in the rear of the main shed, and when the first clatter of the falling pieces of steel had passed the former was about to spring out to see the result of the shot without waiting for the safety signal. The commodore quickly pulled him back and remarked that it would be a good thing to set an example to the crowd by waiting until the muskot was fired. The Secre-tary agreed with him and crept back under shelter.

The ninth shot of the day resounded at just 2:30. It was fired at the Creusot nickel plate, into which it penetrated 1814 inches, the entire projectile remaining in the steel with the copper band partly broken off. In all the other cases this band was entirely torn away and thrown back among the fragments. No cracks were developed, and the two French plates still remained intact.

THE PINAL ROUND. The final round was begun at 2:48, shot No. 10 striking the Creusot all-steel plate in the upper left-hand corner and breaking quite up.

breech and poked down until it encountered the shot, and the gun was loaded. Before it was fired, however, it was necessary to close the back gate, so that none of the gas might escape, and this was done by swinging the breech plug into place and scrowing it around tightly. The primer, a slender rod smaller around than a lead pencil, was inserted at the spot, the lanyard was fastened to it and all was ready.

Ammine the cur.

The gun was aimed at a cross mark chalked on the surface of the plate, no allowance being made for the effect of gravitation, the distance being so short, so that the shot hit the very spot indicated. Calculating at the rate of 2,075 feet a second as the velocity of the shot, it took the projectile 1441-10000 of a second to travel from the mussle to the plate, a period of time guite out of the range of unaided



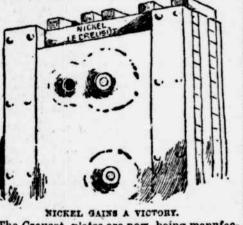
THE BROKEN SHELL When the projectile was recovered it was found that it had been broken in a peculiar

A section about a fourth of the circumference had been taken from the powder chamber. Then, at 3:25, the last shot was fired at the Creusot nickel plate. The projectile was shat-tered, the head remaining in the plate at such a depth that the broken butt was nine inches from the face. The rear portion was thrown outside. The point of the shot was probably about thirteen inches from the face or two and a half inches into the wood. AT THE END OF THE TESTS.

Then the tests were declared off for the day and the board adjourned to one of the academy buildings to formulate the results of the experiments, while most of the spectators made a rush for the steam launches that would

take them where refreshments awaited them. The Star reporter remained just long enough to photograph the plates and to miss his din-ner. The results of his sacrifice are here presented CONGRATULATING COMMODOBE FOLGER. Commodore Folger's arm was weak with

shaking hands with the many people anxious to congratulate him upon the successful completion of the tests. None were more enthusiastic nor more sincere in their congratulations than the foreign steel experts, who expressed it as their opinion that this was the most com-plete and most successful test of armor that had ever taken place. The representatives of the English firm expressed themselves as quite satisfied with the tests, which they pronounced eminently fair. They had concluded to swallow the bitter pill with a good grace. Theirs is the favorite plate in England, and has been adopted for use on the menof - war of the English navy, and they now have a contract for furnishing several million dollars worth of these compound plates to the British government and their plates to the British government and their works are running night and day. The failure of the plate furnished for the tests of Thursday indicate an over-confidence that led them into new fields after having successfully worked their own. Had they been content to let well enough alone their reputation might have renained intact, whereas the results of Thursperformance have cast a shadow of doubt upon not only the integrity of all their plates but also upon the thoroughness of the



The Creusot plates are now being manufactured by the Bethlehem Iron Works Company, which was represented at the tests Thursday by four of the most skillful steel experts in the country. Mr. W. H. Jaques is the ordnance engineer, a former naval officer, with large experience in such matters. He was secretary of the gun foundry board in 1883 and secretary of the Senate committee on ordnance and war capacities he made urgent recommenda-tions for the adoption of the Creu-sot process by this government, which New York newspapers and the steel men of America. He was one of the happiest men on the grounds Thursday, for the results of the tests fully vindicated his judgment. He has produced several works on the subject of armor making. With him at the tests were Messrs. R. W. Davenport, the assistant superintendent of the Bethlehem works; Maunsel White and F. H. Bowen. Mr. J. O. Hoffman represented the firm of Carnegie, Phipps and Com-pany of Pittsburg, and M. C. Y. Wheeler the Sterling Steel Company of Pittsburg. M. D'Aulnay of France was present. He is now n America with the view of calling attention to his process of giving steel greater tenacity by treatment in a lead bath.

One of the most interesting spectators was Mr. Carpenter of the Carpenter steel works at Reading, who has purchased the American right to produce steel by the celebrated Firth-Firming process. He has a contract with the government for the manufacture of a number of case-hardened steel projectiles that are designed to rival the Holtzer shell. A test of this projectife will take place at Annapolis next

OTHER SPECTATORS. Among the spectators were Gov. Jackson of Maryland, Gen. Abbott, Col. P. C. Hains and Capts. Turtle and Knight of the army engineer corps, Capt. E. L. Zalinski of dynamite gun reputation, the only other person present besides THE STAR reporter who had a camera; Capts. Schofield and Bliss of Gen. Schofield's staff, Lieut. Moore of the Hotchkiss Gun Company. Capt. Barker, Lieut. Paul and a number of other naval officers.

A DAY OUT OF DOORS. The President Enjoys an Autumn Walk

The President was out of doors most of the day yesterday at Cresson walking through the woods. Mrs. Harrison went no further than the spring with her little grandson. She, as usual, gave several hours to her china painting and received a number of farewell calls from the cottagers who have lingered this long. Mrs. McKee went driving with Mrs. Secretary Halford toward Loretto. Mr. and Mrs. Wm. H. Dill of Clearfield arrived at Cresson in the evening to accompany the presidential party on the trip to the Houtzdale region today, where Mr. Dill will be master of ceremonies. Mr. Robert McKee, son-in-law of President Harrison, was expected to arrive this morning at 6

RAY HAMILTON'S WILL.

The Convict Widow Will Have to Fight for Her Third, Which Will Be \$100,000.

Edward R. Vollmer, who has charge of Robert Ray Hamilton's estate, returned yesterday from Wisconsin and produced Mr. Hamilton's from Wisconsin and produced Mr. Hamilton's will. It is of comparatively recent date, having been executed since the Atlantic City scandal, and it is said to be so worded as to give tittle advantage to Mrs. Hamilton and the \$10 baby. The real estate is not valued at over \$300,000 and it is for a third of the income of \$10 baby. \$300,000 and it is for a third of the income of Brady, as "Vandyke" was admirably costume this, as her dower right, that Mrs. Hamilton is prepared to fight if necessary. The executors as "Rubens" was richly cossumed. Hon. M. underwood of Kentucky, "The Lone Star," liss. The will will not be filed for probate un-til Executor Bayliss returns to town, in a few comingly as "Little Red Riding Hood." I do til Executor Bayliss returns to town, in a few

in Chicage.

The Brazil bleck coal people exhibited a contract that was binding on the Indiana workers until May 1, 1891, and they claimed it could not until May 1, 1891, and they claimed it could not until May 1, 1891, and they claimed it could not be their men who were going to strike. The same was true with the Wilmington and the Scott companies. During the day, however, a report was received from southern Illinois saying that there can be but little doubt that a strike will be ordered in that region around Springfield, Danville, Mount Olivet and Belleville.

A High-Jumping Morse.

The horse Roseberry Thursday beat the world's record for high jumping by jumping 7 feet 1 inch at the Toronto, Ont., exhibition grounds. The highest previous record was 7 feet % inch, made by the same horse at Elmira, N.Y., a few days ago.

GAY SCENES OF OLD.

A Famous Ante-Bellum Ball and the Memories It Recalls.

SOCIETY IN THE FIFTIES.

The Grand Fancy Ball Given by Mrs. Senator Gwin-People: Who Figured at a Celebrated Gathering-Statesmen and Diplomats in Costume.

Written for THE EVENING STAR.

of revelry by night," and it would be most appropriate, for no more joyous scene was ever witnessed than the one I will attempt to describe. In 1858, in April, Mrs. Senator Gwin of California issued invitations to a grand fancy ball. Ample time was allowed for preparation and Washington and the surrounding cities were busy in selecting costumes for the occasion. Senator Gwin occupied the house on the northwest corner of I and 19th streets, and all the spacious hall and parlors, and, indeed, the whole house was thronged with the most distinguished people who were here at that time and the many who came from Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York and elsewhere to attend this really grand affair. It was not only the event of the season -it was the event of the period. The spacious porter of that day, but The Star at that early day gave to its readers a full report in verse. This description was admirably done by Maj. John DeHavilland, late of the United States army, who is now residing in London, occupying some important position under the British government. The verses were subsequently

printed for private distribution.

To enter into the details of all the incidents which occurred at that charming ball, so lav-ish in all the elements which insure success to such an event, would fill more space than I can hope to occupy, and so I will tell of those who made up that joyous assemblage, and I am sure your readers will believe "The lamps shone o'er fair women and brave men." SOME WHO WERE PRESENT.

The stately hostess and her fair daughters claim precedent, and they deserve first mention. Miss Gwin, who will be remembered here as a very handsome, stylish woman, wore an elaborate costumo, "Queen of Louis Quatorze;" Miss Gwin an exquisite dress of a Greek girl, and Miss Carrie Gwin, then a child, was dressed as a page of the court of Louis XV. The Senator was in the character he so admirably sustained all his life, a host whose bountiful hospitality shed the genial rays of welcome upon all beneath his roof; Mr. Buchanan, in his court dress as the American President, and he never appeared to better advantage than when surrounded with the gay and beautiful. Mrs. John R. Thompson of New Jersey was "La Belle Cautiniere," from L'Etoile du Nord; her costume was beautiful, and she wore it with enchanting grace. Walde-mar Bodisco of the Russian legation, a Muscovite Postillion; Maj. De Havilland, as Richard Cœur de Lion; Lord Odo Russell of the English legation, as Friar Puck, and Don Morena of the Spanish legation, as Robin Hood, made up a trio which attracted a great deal of at-tention. M. le Vicomte de Treilhard, M. Dollfos and M. Guiot of the French legation and M. Gau of the Prussian legation, as others whose names I cannot obtain and can-Pierrots, their white costumes trimmed with not recall, and for the omission I must plead different colors, made a most amusing group. dazzling uniforms made a brilliant display. and Mr. Oscanyan of the Turkish fleet wore a superb Suliote costume. Mrs. Senator Hale of New Hampshire, as a Spanish Duenna, and Miss Hale, as "Sunrise," of whom the poet

"I marvel not, O! sun, that unto thee In adoration man should bow the anea."

Mrs. Luke Lea, Mrs. George N. Sanders and Mrs. Horace F. Clarke of New York appeared in Spanish costumes, Lieut, Richmond Autick as a Spanish student and Gen. John Cochrane as a matador. Mrs. Commodore Powell as Mrs. Popinjay deserves more than a passing notice. Mrs. Major Sutherland as Norma, Mrs. Jefferson Davis as Madame de Stacl, one of the most beautiful and correct historical costumes at the ball and most becomingly worn. Mrs. A. H. Evans of Texas as Queen Isabella of Spain wore a superb costume and Mr. Evans and Mr. Birney were the two Dromios, Mr. Thomas C. Cox as Ravenswood and Jack Sayage as Sir Lucius O'Trigger were admirable. Commander Nelson of the U. S. navy as Fal-staff was not only full of wit himself, but the cause of wit in others. He afterward resigned from the navy and became Gen. Nelson. Mrs. Senator Douglas as Aurora, and quoting from

"The bright aurors on our senses gleams, Nor yields to that fair daughter of the morn, Whom Guido saw on our triumphal borne." he says "she was la Belle du Bal."

NAMES KNOWN TO HISTORY. Mrs. George H. Pendleton, the daughter of Francis G. Key, was "The Star Spangled Banner" by proud hereditary right. Philip Barton Key, her brother, was an English Huntsman. Mrs. Senator Pugh as "Night," whose beauty is remembered yet, and that of her sister, Mrs. Scott. Hon. Charles L. Scott of California as the Earl of Leicester, the Hon. Anson Burlingame as Julian St. Pierre, were two of the most attractive figures in the room. Lord Napier, as Minister to America of George III, and Lady capier, as Mrs. Hammond, wife of the first British minister to America, were superbly at-tired and historically correct to the smallest detail. Sir Gore Ousley, in his brilliant official Ousley as a French Marchioness and Miss Ousley as Italian Peasant Girl.

"A lovely being, scarcely formed or moulded.

A rose with all its sweetest leaves yet folded." Mrs. C. C. Clay of Alabams as Mrs. Partington, with knitting in hand, snuff box in pocket, and "Ike," the inevitable, at her side (Mr. Baylor of Louisiana), acted her character to perfection. The loquacious mal apropos dame rison, was expected to arrive this morning at 6 o'clock on the limited from Indianapolis to be one of the excursion party and to return to Indianapolis with Mrs. McKee and the children Monday.

Perfection. The loquacious mal apropos dame was the leading feature of the entertainment; her instant repartee, her wit and humor kept her hearers laughing with merriment. Mrs. Greenhow as a "housekeeper of the olden time," and Miss Greenhow as the "White Lady of Avenet," and Miss Mechlin as "Catharine Aragon," were beautifully costumed. Our old friend Gen. Clingman, as a gentleman of the twentieth century, which he bids fair to be in reality. Mr. J. Buchanan Henry, private secre-tary of the President, "Sir Charles Grandison;" A.D. (Anno Domini) Banks of Virginia and Mississippi, "The Duke of Buckingham;" Mr. Manley of the English legation as the "Nine

til Executor Bayliss returns to town, in a few days.

Is Executor Bayliss returns to town, in a few days.

Is Well of the Ministry of the Ministry of the executive board of the United Mine Workers, was on his way to Springfield from Pennsylvania to stir up the miners in Illinois and Indiana and order a strike, caused much to many many dates and order a strike, caused much of the world of letters, speared in the court dress worn at the French court of the French court of the French court. Mrs. Butler of the Hamilton's tostiful the Hamilton's code of the United Mine Workers, was on his way to Springfield from Pennsylvania to stir up the miners in Illinois and Indiana and order a strike, caused much the many days and indiana and order a strike, caused much the ma

Phillips of Alabama, most becomingly cos-tumed; Don E. de Murnaga y Vildosola, a "Ranchero." Miss Beach of Hartford as a "Ranchero." Miss Beach of Hartford as a "Gipsy" was dressed most beautifully and was one of the successes of the ball. Mrs. Bodichon, an "Arab Maid;" Mrs. Heywood of South Carolina, a "Siren;" Miss Ray, "Queen of Flowers," and Miss Bradley of Washington as "Bright Night;" Miss Scott of Baltimore, "Night; Miss Belser, "Haunah Prim," and Miss Wetherell of Maryland. "Quakeress," Mrs. Ward and Mrs. Smith of Washington, "Swiss Miss Wethereil of Maryland. "Quakeress;" Mrs. Ward and Mrs. Smith of Washington, "Swiss and French Peasants;" Miss Sue Johnson, "Maid of Saragossa;" Mr. J.T. Adams as "Count Wintersen." Miss Belle Cass, afterward Madame de Limburg, appeared as a "French Marchioness;" the Misses Parker as "Liberty and Swiss Peasant;" Mrs. Hughes of Virginia, nee Ritchie, as "Little Red Riding Hood;" Mrs. Gen. Emery as a "Quakeress," Mrs. Berg of New York as an "Indian Princess" and Mrs. Bridges of California as a "Sioux Maiden" and Mrs. Rogers as "Minnehaha;" Dr. Raney of South America as "Prince Rupert" and Mr. S. W. Gillett as a "Filibuster."

AM tempted to begin this article with W. Gillett as a "Filibuster."

Those of the present day who were among that delighted throng will need no reminder of that delighted throng will need no reminder of the trite quotation: "There was a sound the lavish hospitality bestowed upon the guests of this grand ball, for as such it took rank, and has never been surpassed in this city, where of late years the most expensive entertainments have been given.

MEN WHO SHONE IN THAT DAY. The mention of the names of many of these guests will recall to mind so much of the past when Washington social life was full of wit and enjoyment, where a reputation for brilliant repartee and conversational powers ranked before wealth. Among this brilliant company the names of Mrs. Clay and Commander Nelson bring to my mind that power which they possessed in an eminent degree. Mr. Nelson had been in the navy for years, and had been everywhere and had seen averything. where and had seen everything, and he re-membered what he had seen and could demembered what he had seen and could describe it with remarkable facility. He talked so well that he was generally permitted to monopolize the conversation. Mrs. Clay had remarkable conversational powers, and it was always a pleasure to her to talk. On one occasion, at a dinner where Mrs. Clay and Mr. Nelson were guests, Mr. Nelson usurped the conversational part of the entertainment, somewhat to Mrs. Clay's discomfiture, and her silence was remarked by a friend with some evidence of sympathy. Interpreting his looks of sympathy sne leaned forward and said: "Thank you; he will stop to take breath directly and I will get in a word."

I remember on one occasion when John Brougham was at supper with us at the club Nelson came in and joined us. Up to this time we had enjoyed Brougham's wit and humor, but Nelson was in one of his talkative moods, and Brougham sat spellbound at the flood of words, which was to him somewhat remarka-ble. He was content to listen, he said. A very great change came over Mr. Nelson when he assumed his high military rank. From being a jovial, genial companion, he became morose and overbearing, as 1 have understood from

those who were with him in the army.

During the last term of Mr. Crittenden in the Senate I saw a good deal of him and al-ways found him a delightful companion. He was, at a dinner table, always an acquisition. The only time I ever saw him disconcerted was at a dinner given to Mr. Crittenden on the eve Had raised her, dripping with its silver spray, of his retirement from the Senate. Among the guests was the late Col. John T. Pickett, a very brilliant man, and one who was able to hold his own in any contest of wit and repartee. On this occasion Nelson had got the laugh on Pickett, who bided his time and before the close of the dinner proposed the health of his friend, Commander Nelson of the United States have, one of the most extraordinary men he had ever met, and he said his knowledge was almost universal. If you talked with him on art, you would suppose he had devoted his life to its study; on law you would take him for a jurist; on mechanics you would conclude he was an educated engineer, and, in fact, if he only knew something about navigation, his knowledge would be universal. The laugh was upon Nelson, who joined in it as heartily as any of us.

How many friends the recollection of this grand social event recalls, and there were others whose names I cannot obtain and cantwo years which have clapsed.

The many changes wrought by the four years of war, and of which, thank God, so few traces remain, have sadly depleted the list of those who enjoyed that long -to - be - remembered

night.

I had the pleasure of seeing Senator and Mrs.
Gwin and Miss Carrie Gwin years after in
New York, where they remained nearly the whole of the year 1876. The family returned to California, I think, in 1877. Senator Gwin, however, spent a good deal of his time in New York in the years before his death, engaged in some large mining operations. I saw him almost every day and only the day before his death I was with him. During that last visit he showed me his correspondence with Gen. Jackson, which had been maintained during the many years of their intimate friendship. The letters, I presume, remain in the family, but they would make a most interesting volume. At another time I will tell of a most remarkable letter the Senator read to me from the old hero detailing with the most minute particulars his becoming a member of the church in which he died. Dr. Gwin, for almost everybody called him doctor, even when in the Senate, was one of the cleverest-headed politicians I ever met. I will not project politics into this most charming social reminiscence, but speak of that kindly hospitable nature which he so delighted to exercise and in which he was so cheerfully sustained by Mrs. Gwin, who as hostess had never a superior for kindli-ness and grace. How many old friends will be recalled by those who read these names: Waldemar Bodisco, Richmond Aulick, Jack Savage, Gen. Bill Nelson, Phil Barton Key, Dr. William H. Berry, Ben: Perley Poore, Mr. sud Mrs. George H. Pendleton, "Anno Dominie" Banks, Gen. John Magruder, ex-Mayor Magruder, Anson Burlingame, Jonah Hoover, Maj. Russell, Sylvester Mowry, "Ion" King-man, Mrs. Danl. E. Sickles, Mr. Keitt of South Carolina. They will come back to us embalmed

in the pleasant memories of those past days. MAJOB SMITH'S LETTER.

In my article of last week I promised to exhume a letter written me by Maj. Thomas L. Smith, who is so pleasantly remembered here and wherever he was known. Maj. Smith had for years held high official positions under many administrations, coming here, I think, with Gen. Jackson. He was the friend of Mr. Van Buren, and was requested by him to exercise his taste and was requested by him to exercise his taste and judgment in refurnishing the White House, and it was under his orders the house was furnished and supplied as detailed in Jack Oyle's celebrated gold spoon speech. Maj. Smith was a gentleman in all the relations of life, a man of culture and the friend and intimate companion of Mr. Seaton, Mr. Clay, Mr. Webster, Col. Benton and others of like distinction. He had been a liberal and genial host and a guest at the tables of the most distinguished guest at the tables of the most distinguished men and families in the city. In later years the major, I think one of the handsomest men in the city, suffered greatly with that enemy of all lovers of the good things of this life. Of course he was one of the first invited to "The Wake," and late in the day of the entertainment I received from him the note I give below. How he enjoyed reading the description of Pike's brief call on Pluto and the other wittigisms of that occasion.

COYLE: If you were a dyspeptic I would askyou what right has a vinerar-faced, morbid, aplenetic marpiot, cursed with the blues, indigestion and pills, to offend festivity and the generous indulgence of whole soul hospitaity with his presence? What can he do with a company that has no wrinkle on their brow, no practical knowledge of the uses of materia medica and the professional pursuits of Galen, Hippocrates and Albanazar; a company whose tone of digestion is of the economy of the ostrich, and whose libations honor the immortality of Bacchus? What right has the poor devil who is interdicted by his M.D. of observations.

knew very well, and her daughter left England and for some years resided in one of the West India Islands, and subsequently came to the city and purchased the house next the Adams' house from Dr. Thomas Miller's father, where they resided for many years.

DR. R. SHELTON MACKENSIE. One of those who spent a week or two in Washington at the period I am recalling was Washington at the period I am recalling was Dr. R. Shelton MacKenzie, so long and so well known in the literary world on both sides of the Atlantic. He seemed to link the two men most alike, as I have heard, in appearance and intellect, Christopher North, or "Kit North"—Prof. Jock Wilson of Blackwood's Magazine, the author of the Noctes Ambrosiana—and Albert Pike. He was charged with a message from Prof. Wilson to Gen. Pike, which he delivered at a dinner given at Jonah Honore's from Prof. Wilson to Gen. Pike, which he delivered at a dinner given at Jonah Hoover's, whose guest he was. His "Hymns to the Gods" Pike sent anonymously to "Blackwood's" sixty years ago, and "Kit North" pronounced them worthy to have been sung on Mount Olympus, By the bye, Mr. Wm. R. Smith has just obtained for his library a complete set of "Blackwood" from its first number. Dr. Mackenzie was one of the "mourners" at Pike's wake and wrote a very graphic and humorous account of wrote a very graphic and humorous account of it for Forney's Press. The doctor was a cotem-porary of the brilliant set of literary men, with Count D'Orsay and others, who met at Lady Blessington's.

BAD FOR GOOBER FIENDS. Lovers of the Nut Likely to Suffer From a Threatened Famine. From the Inter-State Grocer.

The festive peanut is so very scarce and high

at the present time that the average street vender keeps his stock in a safe with his money. The total visible supply in the United States is under 20,000 bags, of which quantity about age is quite serious and that the prices are justified. The prospects for a new crop are for a very heavy yield. The new crop is due after October 20, and is usually not marketable until January 1, from the fact that the nuts are not sufficiently cared. Owing to the above treatment. sufficiently cured. Owing to the short market this year the new crop will probably go into immediate consumption, though at a loss of about 15 per cent in roasting as against 7 for old goods. There are no nuts to be had in the producing district and dealers are now buying from each other. St. Louis is now supplying Cincinnati, Petersburg and Norfolk.

Written for THE EVENING STAR. Of yore when love had blest the gods on high, And breathed upon them what none e'er had dream'd

Of earthly bliss, each one it straightway seemed Doffed heav'nly state and donned mortality. When love had breathed on frail humanity. His soul with wondrous, matchless spiendo gleamed. When on him first thy radiant rays had beame

He fled the earth and rose a delty. And so when Cytherea from the foamy sea All heav'n and earth straight owned th' imperial Then did sweet Philomel upon the tree,

Enraptured burst into her song of love, The earth in joy sang to the sky above.

The Tale of a Dog From Judge.









of the English sparrow and our foreign friends seem even more numerous than ever. The law authorizes him to pay a bounty of 20 cents per dozen for all of these birds killed and the price paid would indicate that the small boy has been on the warrant to the small boy has